

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2002

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

The following items were discussed at the April 11, 2002 Fire and Rescue Commission Meeting:

- The Commission with provided an update on the status of promulgating the *Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct* regulation. The County Council had some questions regarding syntax and presentation of various sections of the document, which will be forwarded to the Commission for review. The temporary regulation will be extended until the issues with the permanent regulation are resolved.
- A proposal to reorganize the FRC Committee structure has been distributed for comment which are due on May 3, 2002.
- A request to reallocate Senator Amoss funds for the Takoma Park VFD and the 2001 LOSAP approval were approved as the consent calendar.
- The Commission was provided with an overview of the FY02 second quarter analysis for the LFRD budgets.
- The Commission discussed the response to working structure fires to areas of the County without hydrants. A resolution regarding this matter was tabled and referred back to the Operations Committee. The FRC adopted Directive 02-05 as an interim policy. This directive established the Water Supply Task Force (WSTF) and provided for the dispatch of the WSTF on all working structure fires in areas without hydrants.
- An update was provided regarding the status of the County Council deliberations on the FY03 MCFRS Operating Budget.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

EMG Meeting – Preparations are underway for the quarterly May 30th EMG meeting. Discussion will include Homeland Security Alert System measures for county public safety agencies, revisions to Emergency Operations Plan, exercises, and recommendations for terrorism preparedness.

Hazlink Update – OEM has been working to update CAS numbers in the field lookup table and to make other improvements to the Hazlink database. Since April they have processed 8121 CAS numbers and added 352 new entries into the field lookup table. This work is being paid for with a Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning federal grant. Meetings have been held with e-Montgomery and the delay in going online is due to the proposed migration to Windows XP. We are finding that certain functions are not converting over which allow us to produce revenue reports. Automation staff are reviewing the problem and will propose solutions shortly. OEM developed a contract for services to update the Hazlink database to correct errors requested by e-Montgomery and Treasury to facilitate revenue receipts, as well as a number of technical issues to improve customer notifications. Chemical Information Systems will also restructure database to facilitate data transfer to the system for the new ECC. HAZLINK database has been modified to track email addresses for facilities, corporate responsible officers, and facility emergency

coordinators. Staff are reviewing how to track and link databases using CAS numbers since a number of chemical products and biological agents lack CAS numbers. Mike Krumlauf is modifying the database to allow field officers to directly bring up facilities by fire district.

EOC Automation Project – Mike Krumlauf participated in the DC EMA/EOC Software Evaluation project done by National Institute of Justice. Dist. Chief Ey and Krumlauf will be looking at the 11 evaluation projects to assess them for Montgomery County along with the EMG Automation committee of public safety agencies.

Tours – We conducted a tour of the EOC for the British on Monday May 13th and another one for the Polish on Friday May 17th.

Severe Storm – April 22nd-April 26th was Severe Storm Awareness Week. EMG agencies and volunteers attended MEMA hosted conference on April 26th featuring speakers on western MD floods, thunderstorms, and the MD DOT CHART program in Reisterstown. OEM responded to the severe storms and tornadoes in early May, and worked with county agencies to collect damage assessment reports. Participated in drafting press release about tornado and lightning safety.

Haz-Mat Revenues – Office of Emergency Management has brought in \$420,000 to-date for FY02 from the haz mat regulation program.

June 4 Hurricane Exercise – Plans are underway to go ahead with our evening Damage Assessment/Communications hurricane exercise on June 4th. The EMG and Office of Emergency Management are conducting a joint damage assessment training program for staff and volunteers on May 28th. MEMA cancelled its participation in the exercise on May 16th due to their workload with La Plata.

Radiological Incident Planning – K. Talbott participated in COG Crisis Planning and exercise on March 21st in DC, created by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, with a “dirty bomb” scenario. Among issues raised were quarantine authority, ability to isolate HVAC in county buildings, protective measures to be taken by citizens, and training for responders and government employees. OEM used same exercise for Radiological Workshop on April 22nd with LEPC, public safety agencies, and federal agencies within the County.

Dirty Bomb Exercise- EMG Exercise Design Team C is working on a dirty bomb exercise for February, 2003. Meetings have been held with county agencies, haz-mat team, federal installations, and others to design field component. Decon is expected to be part of exercise. A Unified Command Post will be part of the exercise.

NPS Exercise – A National Pharmaceutical Stockpile distribution and dissemination exercise is planned for September 25, 2002. Meetings of the EMG Exercise Design Team A have been held with hospitals, county agencies, and state agencies to develop.

Mitigation Grant - K. Henning met with DEP director James Caldwell and staff Ellen Scavia and Dave Rotolone to discuss hazard mitigation plan updating. Kathee Henning prepared a Notice of Interest for federal funds for a grant to update plan. Monies, if approved, would be awarded in FY 2003.

Mass Fatality Class – A highly successful federally funded Mass Fatality Incident Response class was held April 30th-May 2nd. US PHS, County Health Officer Dr. Garvey, and Dr. Alcorta from MIEMSS, as well as other speakers from the National Transportation Safety Board,

FBI, DMORT, Crisis Center, and the State Medical Examiner were speakers. Notification, mobilization, and decontamination issues were discussed for a mass fatality incident triggered by an act of terrorism. This new pilot program included public health concerns and policy considerations, as well as operational issues. Responders to Flight 93 and the Pentagon also presented information, some of which had not been made public before. There were 32 students and 17 technical presenters and panel speakers.

Annexes – The 2001 Annexes were given final review and forwarded to the County Executive. They have been signed and forwarded to County Council for review and approval resolution. Major work has been underway for the past three months on updating the 2002 Annexes. There will be considerable changes since this is the first round of revisions post September 11th. Annexes will be discussed at May EMG meeting.

Push-Pack Planning – OEM staff Kathleen Henning and Bob Nemchin are working with Police, Fire and Rescue, Public Health, DPW&T, and State agencies to develop and update a plan for the distribution of the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, and coordinate planning activities with the EMG.

CEM – Mike Krumlauf was awarded his national certification as a Board certified Emergency Manager after passing a national exam and successfully presenting his credentials. He joins K. Henning and B. Nemchin in OEM as nationally certified.

NAWAS drops – MEMA Communications will be installing 4 NAWAS drops in Montgomery County shortly. They will be in the OEM office, Police ECC, Fire and Rescue ECC, and the EOC. This puts Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties on the Maryland circuit, separate from the WAWAS, Washington circuit. This will give us another way to link into state coordination calls, such as joint weather or emergency management calls. It is part of the Regional Information Coordination Center (RICC) for us to coordinate with Maryland counties. We will also still be monitoring WAWAS to coordinate with DC.

Disabled- K. Henning met with HHS ADA Coordinators to discuss activities to assist disabled during disasters. They are requesting a presentation at the Disabilities Commission on June 12th. Will be looking to update webpage, produce at least one pamphlet on services for the disabled, review and expand location of notices about 711 Maryland relay for the deaf, and meet with organizational leaders to discuss expanded education for the public.

Community Education Safety Section

Corporate Development Services

Automation Section

Fleet and Facilities Section

Fleet Activities

- Mid-point inspection was performed on three (3) pumpers at Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, WI. These pumpers are due for delivery in May and will be assigned to Hillandale, Kensington, and Rockville.
- An order was finalized for five (5) EMS units from Wheeled Coach. These will be delivered during the summer.

- Proposals were evaluated for a mid-mount aerial tower to replace Bethesda AT-20. Pricing has been requested from the vendors. An award will be made in May.

Facility Activities

- The Takoma Park station replacement project continues to move ahead, albeit slowly. The City held a public forum in April for the purpose of hearing citizen input on the project. The location of the temporary station and the site plan for the replacement station continue to be issues.
- The Silver Spring station #1 replacement project is in the design stage. Representatives of both the SSVFD and the career personnel at FS #1 have met with the architect. All parties have agreed upon the basic footprint. The architect is further defining the footprint and will be back to present it in May.
- The Collapse Rescue Team building, located behind Rockville FS #31, has been completed, including punch list items. The neighborhood has requested some screening so that the building can not be seen from their houses. All parties are working together to resolve this issue in a timely manner.

Grants Management Section

Property Section

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Bureau of Operations

Administration

Safety

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue;

Swiftwater Rescue Team

Bureau of Program Support Services

Administration

Communications

April 2002

Total Telephone Calls Received:	32,715
Total 9-1-1 Calls Received:	9,889
Total Admin Calls Received:	22,457

Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center hosted the Council of Government Communications Committee meeting at 1300 Quince Orchard Blvd. District Chief Patullo is the chairman for this committee.

On April 18, 2002 the Mid-Eastern Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials held their annual luncheon for the “Telecommunicator of the Year” awards. A group, headed by Deputy Chief Jackson, attended and the nominees from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue’s ECC were given Certificates of Recognition.

MFR Marc Worton has been visiting various fire stations to discuss the benefits of working in the ECC.

Training

The 39 members of Recruit Class #21 began Essentials of Firefighting training in April.

The new Symtron Live Fire Simulator installed in the Burn Building in February was used for Recruit Class #21 and Essentials of Firefighting #02-2 classes in April.

The 2001-2002 High School Fire Science Program will end in May with a graduation ceremony set for Thursday, May 23rd at 1200 hours in the Lobby of the Public Safety Training Academy.

Exams completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing in April are:

Written	10
Practical	7

A total of 97 sessions of the Chem-Bio In-Service Training Program were held from January - April with 1000 MCFRS personnel and 1044 MCPD personnel attending.

EMT-Paramedic Class #23 (nighttime) continues with 26 students and EMT-Paramedic Class #24 (daytime) continues with 22 students.

Four career EMT-Paramedics were awarded charge status in April.

Bureau of Life Safety Services

Administration

Fire Code Enforcement

Completed 70 school inspections and issued 450 violations. FCE expects to complete the school inspections by the end of the school year and anticipates a total of 1280 violations.

FCE completed the inspections for the new Hoyt Movie Theater in Germantown, Maryland.

FCE opened the 1st phase of inspections for the American Film Institute.

Inspector position was restored to begin July, 2002.

There were 2 fires in buildings/homes that had sprinkler systems.

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In April, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 24 accidental fires and 11 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 17 explosive / suspicious package /

letter, threat incidents. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 3,428,700 and \$ 80,620 for criminal fire related incidents.

Lt. Shaw and his K-9 partner Hank were requested and responded to several incidents outside of Montgomery County.

Investigators conducted five public education details regarding the activities of the section to several different groups during this month.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Participated in a PS2000 training exercise at the PSTA
- Met with the Fire Administrator and others regarding the DOL issue
- Met with the Fire Administrator and others regarding the support vehicle policy
- Attended a meeting regarding preparation for the Take Your Daughters to Work Day
- Attended the Volunteer Hell Night exercises at the PSTA
- Participated in a final preparation meeting for the Valor Awards Luncheon
- Assisted with a unit citation at Station 3
- Attended a budget meeting with the Council's Public Safety Committee
- Acted on behalf of the Fire Administrator at the Valor Awards Luncheon
- Oversaw a full committee meeting regarding the Contractor's LOSAP draft
- Attended the half day briefing, etc., at the LEPC meeting
- Was part of a group who met with DOL officials (Wage and Hour Div.) at DOL Headquarters
- Participated in another budget meeting with the Public Safety Committee
- Participated in the Take Your Daughters to Work Day
- Attended a meeting with the Environmental Program personnel
- Met with the attorney representing the County in the Moore case
- Attended the Silver Spring FD banquet
- Represented the fire and rescue service at the Joe Zelinka retirement
- Participated in the DFRS promotional ceremony
- Attended the Fire Board, Human Relations, Safety and Training, Fire and Rescue Commission, Fire and Rescue Association and Operations and Chiefs' Advisory

Committee meetings.

- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.